MishManners is May 2022 Xbox Ambassador of the Month!

Community Mister Taxel May 2, 2022

It’s a new month and that means it’s time to announce our newest Xbox Ambassador of the Month and Community Champion – MishManners! MishManners is a content creator, journalist, and hackathon queen. As a Level 4 Xbox Ambassador, she’s a proud advocate for making gaming more safe, fun, and welcoming to everyone. You may recognize her from our social spaces or from her guest post on this blog. Either way, read on for a great Q&A to get to know her better.

Photo Credit – MC Esports

How did gaming become one of your passions?

When I was younger, we weren't allowed to play games unless they were "educational". My parents wanted us to focus on school instead. There were the occasional DOS games like Xargon or Commander Keen that my Dad would bring home on a Floppy Disc. I was also lucky enough that my Nan bought me a Gameboy colour and Pokemon Crystal for my 12th birthday!

Then I remember finding an Age of Empires CD in a Nutri-Grain packet. I convinced my parents it was educational as it taught us about history. Ironically, my cousin who played it with us, went on to become an archaeologist.

When I got to college my friend introduced me to the Assassin's Creed franchise and I was hooked. I loved it. It was really the first "game" that I played. During that time I was got involved in running LANs for the college (check out this flashback: https://twitter.com/MishManners/status/1517736446609989632), playing Age of Empires with college mates on the weekend and becoming part of the video game society at Melbourne University. It was there that I found out about volunteering for PAX Australia. Ever since then I've been so involved in the gaming industry; both the esports, business, and gaming side. I've hosted esports shows, write for various esports and gaming publications,

MC’d esports comps, and got involved in Twitch Streaming. It’s been such an incredible journey and I’ve loved meeting all the amazing people along the way.

What’s your favorite video game or franchise, and why?
I don’t really have a favourite and that’s what I love about games so much. You can literally play anything and be whoever you want to be. I love the diversity and type of games that are out there. Each game and game franchise, I like and play for different reasons. I’ve loved the Elder Scrolls games due to the fantasy, dragons, and ability to play how you like. I love playing Fortnite because I get to hang out with my friends in a casual and fun setting. Playing Forza is amazing because I love driving and the scenery is just beautiful. I’m not one type of gamer and that’s what I love so much about video games and the gaming community.

Photo Credit – William Mannering

How long have you been an Xbox Ambassador for, and how did you first hear about the program?
I’ve been an Ambassador since 2017. I heard about it through a friend. I jumped at the opportunity to share my experience, and to help and support others.

Do you have a favorite Xbox Ambassadors memory that you’d like to share?

When Xbox Game Pass and Xbox Game Club were first released, I remember everyone being so excited. Lots of us from the Ambassador program jumped on board these as well. I just love being able to share experiences with others, learn about the best and upcoming games first, and share those with the community.

For you, what's the most important line of the Xbox Ambassador Pledge and why?

Gaming for everyone.
Gaming has no boundaries, well it *should* have no boundaries. Anyone can play video games regardless of age, race, gender, and even more so now regardless of disability. It's something that everyone can enjoy, relate to, and come together in shared experiences. It can bring people together in a way that lots of other activities can't.

What does a healthy community mean to you?
Communities are all about respect, acceptance, and support. A good healthy community is one where everyone listens to one another and respects each other. Even if not everyone agrees, people in the community should be able to still have respect. Healthy communities are ones that encourage sharing, and encourage people to feel welcomed. I love a community that is positive and listens to one another. It means a community where there isn't a dictator, but where everyone feels they have a voice, and a voice that will be heard.

How do you think online communities positively impact the lives of gamers?

Online communities are so important for gaming, as gaming primarily takes place online these days. In an age where people could hide behind a keyboard and be nasty, it's important that there are good, positive online communities that encourage people to game. In the past, many people have given up gaming due to abuse or unwelcoming attributes from fellow players. It's now so important that we change that, and have communities that welcome players from all walks of life and encourage them to pursue the things they enjoy.

Photo Credit – William Mannering

What do you like to do outside of gaming?

Outside gaming, I play a lot of sport (Aussie rules football, touch football, basketball, quidditch (yep, it's a thing!), soccer, and squash). I love the outdoors; hiking, wakeboarding in summer, snowboarding in winter, and enjoying beautiful scenery. I've run startups before and still involved in mentoring and supporting the Startup community. I'm a developer advocate, and love sharing my knowledge through various forms of content creation.

As Ambassador of the Month, what message do you have for other members of the Xbox Ambassadors community?

I have two pieces of advice for everyone. The first, is be welcoming, no matter where you are and who you are with. Welcome people because you don't know who is on the other end of the monitor, or what they are going through. They may just need someone to be nice to them. The second piece of advice is always have fun! Gaming shouldn't always be about winning. It should be about enjoying time with others or enjoying time spend immersing yourself in another world. If you find yourself not having fun, take a break. Many people forget that the primary purpose of games is that "play", to have fun. Make sure you are doing that for yourself, and creating a space where others can also have fun!

Photo Credit – PLE Computers

For more excellent MishManners content, check out her website for socials, stream links, articles she's published, and more. Do you know an Xbox Ambassador who deserves to be spotlighted as Ambassador of the Month and/or as a Community Champion? Nominate them at this link for consideration by our staff. See the full roster of Community Champions and learn more about what we look for in this role at our blog all about Community Champions .